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NRO REVIEW
COMPLETED

1 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Special Group

SUBJECT : Assessment of Photographic Reconnaissance Mission in the Taiwan Straits Area on 29 July 1962

REFERENCE : Attachment 1 ([redacted]1862-62) to Memorandum for Military Representative of the President from Deputy Director (Intelligence), CIA, dated 18 July 1962. (Similar memoranda also sent to Deputy Secretary of Defense and Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State.) 25X1A

1. The Director of Central Intelligence has asked me to send you an evaluation of the results of the most recent photographic reconnaissance mission in the Taiwan Straits area, flown 29 July 1962.

2. The mission, favored by excellent weather, was the most successful to date. All coastal areas between Swatow and Shanghai were covered, including Amoy and Foochow, in addition to airfields, cantonment areas and transportation lines in the interior. As a result of this and previous U-2 missions, nearly all the priority targets in the area immediately facing the Taiwan Straits have been covered. We now have an adequate intelligence base against which to measure military movements and new construction in this area. Generally speaking, our findings confirmed evidence from other sources that a major Chinese Communist military buildup did take place in the Taiwan Straits area. This photography shows in addition, however, that no new deployments appear to have been made since mid-June and the situation appears to have stabilized. It also indicated that there is no major concentration of landing craft or other evidence of Chinese Communist preparations for an imminent attack on the Offshore Islands.

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3. Our conclusion is that the purposes for which photographic reconnaissance of this area was recommended in the reference memorandum have now been served and additional coverage is not needed on this area at this time. It is my impression that this view is shared by other U.S. intelligence agencies, which are studying the matter in the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance.

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RAY S. CLINE
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense
Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State
Director of Central Intelligence

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